

Memo on dealings with Thomas Young

They date to some time prior to 6/10/68, when his statement on the cost of a Val-A-Pak is dated. I had to go back for it several times and I believe I saw him prior to the ruin of this bag by an airline after being referred by the Leather Shop on N. Market, to which I'd taken an expensive brief case for repair.

I also wanted to buy a pair of mocassins from Young. When he apologized for not having them in stock he also said he was expanding. It is in this connection I told him about the showcases I have in Hyattstown. We then made a deal that he'd get what cabinets he wanted from them, I'd get mocassins, sandals, the American Tourister Flightbag he recommended as less likely to be damaged by rough handling (about \$60.00) and possibly a pocketbook for my wife, the balance to be in cash. I believe it was the first time I saw him that he ordered my books, and I told him that since I wanted this or these repairs made and other things, we could include them in the exchange. I delivered the books. One other thing that was part of this exchange is a strap for a camera he made (\$1.25, never paid, never asked for pay because of this arrangement).

Each time I went to his store to take him to the cases either he was not there or could not leave. His explanations were plausible: a very sick boy or help that didn't show up requiring him to be in the store. After some time passed and these situations persisted, I asked him if he'd like to have the key, so he could go when it was possible and he desired that. I gave him the key. As I'd stop back for the bag, mocassins and sandals I'd ask him if he'd been there and he hadn't, with a new reason: he also had a friend in business in Leesburg and between them they'd probably want all the showcases. The inefficiency of getting them with one trip was obvious to me.

Then a friend told me of an artist in West Virginia who was opening a store and wanted some. Because Young had said they'd probably want either all or most of them, I phoned Young, gave him this man's phone number, and asked that he let the man have the key so he could see them and tell him which ones he was certain he, Young, wanted. I now believe he never did this. When I had another possible sale I went to see Young and asked for the key so I could show them. He then told me he didn't have it, that this friend in Virginia did. He promised to get it promptly but he didn't. Meanwhile, he also told me that because it had been impossible for him to get away, he had sent a son (I don't even know if he has a son old enough) with a Polaroid camera to take pictures, and these showed two were ideal and at the very least he'd want them, but he'd prefer to get them soon, when he had to have them and could place them immediately where he'd want them (I believe these were for the Hagerstown store). Meanwhile, although insisting he wanted others for the Frederick expansion, he said until he completed the negotiations for the larger space, he could not specify. He kept telling me this would be promptly done. Even after telling me the Shopping Center wanted too much for the larger space, he insisted he still wanted and needed the cabinets. He ~~pretended~~ gave the impression of being hectic about his inability to get them in time for last year's Christmas business.

When I kept pressing him for the key and had to leave on a trip, he promised to get the key on a weekend and deliver it to my wife so she could make it available to the interested party. On my return, when my wife had heard nothing and we had lost that possible sale, I went to see him. He was full of apologies, but his Virginia friend had had a heart attack. After a reasonable time, when the friend apparently survived, I kept after him for the key, the only one I had, and he finally said the friend had lost it. All of these things seemed reasonable, if embarrassing to me, and consuming an enormous amount of time. Finally, I went to Hyattstown myself, was able to enter that building through a door that had been left open, and discovered extensive vandalism. This was relatively recently. ~~After a long delay~~ I reported this to him, he seemed

genuinely sorry, and I asked him to check with his insurance company to see if he was covered. From about this time he seemed to disappear from the Frederick store. But, from time to time, I'd stop in to see if he had the merchandise I was supposed to get. He did have the sandals after a while, but the wrong kind. He promised to get the right ones but never did. And he did get the special Canadian moccasins he handles, which run different in size, but once he sent a pair too small and once too large. He kept telling me the bag had been ordered but just hadn't arrived. I needed that for my travelling. I finally made a temporary and unsightly repair on the damaged one to hold until the ordered one arrived.

On the brief case, he said they could do it at little cost if I would not press them, if their workmen could work on it in free moments, and I agreed to that. After about a year, he sent me word that the repair would cost about \$10.00 more than he had estimated. I took the bag back until I could speak to him about it. When I finally did, he assured me they could and would fix it. I knew I'd need it in about a month and he assured me he'd have it by then. I carefully explained to him I wanted it for its great capacity, to carry onto the plane files I did not want to go into the baggage compartment. At the time it was supposed to have been returned, repaired, it wasn't, and in an emergency I had to improvise other (and costly) ways of carrying those files, which were precious to me.

~~XXXXX~~ From time to time I'd stop in to see if he had the merchandise and to leave word I'd like him to pay me at least for the books. Each time I'd stop back I'd ask if he'd left any money or any message and there was never either. About two months ago his wife was there. I had met her once earlier and told her I'd been expecting word from him, but that also didn't get results. On this occasion I told her he had been a walking disaster and I wanted him to straighten things out, and she insisted they had never wanted or needed any showcases (they could have used them in the Frederick store without expansion) and she wanted to return the books. After this long a lapse in time obviously I could not take them back and so told her. I also told her I expected him to straighten out what he still could of this mess, and soon. Several times I stopped back after that, asking the girl to get him on the phone, but either she had excuses, like he wasn't at the Higginstown store, or she phoned and he wasn't. Once I believe she did get him and I spoke to him as I had to his wife. The last time before I took the bag I told the girl I'd wait a while but when I came back I wanted some kind of check or would take some kind of security. When I learned that he was about to leave the Shopping Center, closing his Frederick operation, I went back. First the girl said she had neither check nor message. When I asked her to get him on the phone, she said the phone wasn't working. I then told her I'd take a bag as security and asked her to write out whatever kind of receipt she wanted. She refused. When I told her I was serious she went next door to the Sherwin Williams store and returned with Mr. Crabbe. He asked the girl about the phone and she told him it was disconnected. He went back to his store and phoned Young. When some time elapsed and he did not return, I went into his store. He was talking to Young and asked me to. Young started making speeches. I told him if there was any man in the world whose word was proven worthless it was him, that I wanted either a payment or I'd take the bag I had as partial security. When he persisted in making speeches I told him the time was past for that. He said if I took the bag he'd have me arrested. I told him I didn't want that particular bag but that, with him, in effect, sneaking away while stalling me, I wanted some at least token security. I also told him I'd leave any kind of receipt he wanted, as Crabbe also knows, having heard it when I told the girl and him and when I spoke to Young. Young finally hung up when I insisted I wanted performance, not more meaningless words. I left Mr. Crabbe's store almost immediately to pick up my wife and surprise! the Crider phone that was "out of order" and "disconnected" was, magically, working. Young had my wife on the phone. He now wanted to speak to me again. I told the girl all that interested me was a payment, that still more promises to be broken I would not again accept, nor would I continue returning on his promises because

I think this shows the girl was in some thing phoned in advance)

they were of established worthlessness. But I again offered her a receipt. I must have made this offer to her more than a half-dozen times, including right before I left the store. I told her I wasn't wasting any more time there and asked her to write it out. She said she'd resort to violence and I encouraged her not to consider it.

Young always represented the business to me as a family business of which he was either all or part owner. I have no doubt he didn't want showcases for his living room. While I regarded the sale of my books as to him, personally, there was never any doubt that the showcases would be for the business as would the merchandise to me and the payment. He regarded both as him, not distinguishing between the payment in good for the books and for the showcases.

I am bringing the camera for which he made the strap and to which he attached it so you can show he never billed me for it. This is proof of the existence of the deal. He was also to have made me another strap he never did, so I could carry my portable typewriter to and from my car at airports by means of it, thus saving time and posters. It would free a hand.

Before the briefcase was returned for the last time. Mrs. Young gave me an entirely different story about it. She said they never had workmen who could have repaired it. When I told her this was the opposite of what her husband said on accepting it for repair, she changed the story and said that man had left their employ. However, she said that she had inquired of the Atlas salesman, that he had identified it as a briefcase of their manufacture and costing about \$100.00, that they could supply the replacement for the torn leather, and she said she'd send the briefcase and the Atlas address to Frederick for me. She did. It took ~~xxxxxxxx~~ an exchange of four letters with Atlas to determine this was not their briefcase! I presume the Atlas salesman knows his own line!

The bag I took is neither a briefcase nor is it priced at \$50.00, so I fail to see how either Young can be a "witness", since neither was there. As I told everyone, it is not something I want, but it is luggage, ~~the~~ ^{the} closest to me (and I didn't see anything like what I was to have gotten). It is a satchel, and I have two of them, one the size of this and a larger one. I took it, as I specified, only as a kind of security, in the hope that it would persuade Young to pay me.

The key he lost fits six locks. If I can replace the tumblers, the cost will be not less than \$48.00. If I cannot, the cost will be considerable greater, for all six locks will have to be replaced in their entirety. Had it not been for his stalling me, I'd have sold at least many of the cases and the vandalism would have been eliminated in those cases, if not all. I do not know that whoever did this got in by means of the key he had, but when I got there, the door was open and the lock unlocked. It was not that way when last I'd been there. I'd locked the doors. It is also possible that whoever he sent left the door unlocked. However, this was my only key and I gave it to no one else. I had thought my mother-in-law had a key, but that was to the back door of our home, a different lock. If the locksmith has to make more than one trip, it will be \$30 for each trip alone, not counting the locksmithing. \$48.00 is if he has to make but a single trip, or the minimum.

You were sick when I phoned after speaking to Rosenfeld. He says he is also putting the Youngs out of his Hagerstown property in February, that they have avoided being sued only by extending certain guarantees, including being out of the Shopping Center by either the 27th or 29th of this month, that in his 50 years of doing business, he has considered resorting to the courts but a couple of times, one being Young, and that he does not think he has ever met as big a liar as Young, who was always making promises he never kept and apparently didn't intend to. He offered to help. I think ~~he~~ said Seymour Stern is his lawyer.